

I am a disabled veteran, and would love to be able to afford high-speed Internet service, but I believe that allowing large corporations to merge will make it economically impossible for me to enjoy what is now almost a necessity rather than a luxury. Please, do not allow any merger that has the potential to stifle competition. If my information is correct, only two companies will control 90 percent of the consumer market, and I can't think of any scenario where we need such a large corporation. A merger of this magnitude would only put the interests of large corporations over the interests of individual consumers, and you have a duty to block them. No sane person would deny a company from enjoying a fair rate of return for their stockholders nor a decent wage for their employees but, in a world of increased competition, consumers could be enjoying unlimited local and long-distance telephone calls, as well as high-speed Internet access, for just \$40 -- \$15 for comm! unity Internet and \$25 for unlimited phone calls over the Internet and the company would still be able to meet its responsibilities. The FCC should block these mergers and find new ways to bring down the costs of these services, particularly high-speed Internet which has become essential to modern life and is the gateway to exciting new technologies, like making phone calls on the Internet and streaming in video over the Internet. America is falling behind the rest of the world in broadband deployment. We are now 16th, far behind countries like Japan and Korea, which have opened up the building blocks of broadband phone and cable lines to competitors. This merger would only worsen these problems and therefore must be blocked. They would stifle competition, raise prices, and lead to fewer choices, making the problem worse, not better. Sincerely, Richard L. Davis  
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